

Application No.: 09/882,438

Docket No.: 606928002US

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated August 23, 2006 are respectfully requested. The applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough Office Action, particularly for the citations to relevant portions of the applied references. Claims 3, 7 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9 and 11-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to more clearly define subject matter for which applicants seek protection. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0006] or [0007] of the Specification.

Personal Interview with Examiner

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone conference of May 10, 2007. In the interview, the applicants' representatives and the Examiner agreed that the claims as currently amended are patentable over the cited references.

Should the Examiner require additional information regarding the substance of the interview, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

Conclusion

Overall, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 8 or 15, and thus the claims are allowable. Since these claims are allowable based on at least the above reasons, the claims which depend from them are likewise allowable. If the undersigned representative has overlooked a relevant teaching in the reference, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner

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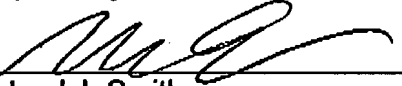
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has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3090.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 606928002US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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